

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A display device having at least one picture element having an optical switch comprising at least one first fluid and a second fluid immiscible with each other above a first support plate, the second fluid being electro-conductive or polar which display device has driving means for applying to electrodes of the optical switch voltages associated with a range of electro-optical states of the picture element between and including a first extreme state and a second extreme state said driving means providing during selection of a picture element variable voltages to said picture element prior to applying a fixed voltage to the display device.

2. (Currently amended) A The display device according to claim 1 comprising the fluids within a space between a first transparent support plate and a second support plate.

3. (Currently amended) ~~A~~-The display device according to claim 1 in which the variable voltages comprise a set of alternating voltages having a mean value substantially equal to a non-zero voltage ~~( $V_i$ )~~ associated with an electro-optical state of the picture element to be set.

4. (Withdrawn - currently amended) ~~A~~-The display device according to claim 3, wherein the fixed voltage is a non-zero voltage and wherein ~~in which~~ the variable voltages comprise a DC part and an AC part the maximum and minimum voltages of the alternating voltages ~~having a~~ having a root mean square average value substantially equal to a ~~the~~ fixed voltage associated with an electro-optical state of the picture element to be set.

5. (Withdrawn - currently amended) ~~A~~-The display device according to claim 4 comprising different time periods for parts of the variable voltage curves having voltage values above said root mean square average value and parts of the variable voltage curves having voltage values below said root mean square average value.

6. (Withdrawn - currently amended) ~~A~~-The display device according to claim 1 said driving means providing preceding voltages to a

picture element prior to said voltages associated with the electro-optical states.

7. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A-The display device according to claim 6 in which the preceding voltages comprise a set of alternating voltages having an average value substantially equal to zero.

8. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A-The display device according to claim 6 in which the preceding voltages comprise a set of alternating voltages having an average value substantially equal to a non-zero voltage associated with an electro-optical state of the picture element to be set.

9. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A-The display device according to claim 7 in which in driving at least one picture element the amplitude of the preceding voltages decreases.

10. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A-The display device according to claim 7 in which in driving at least one picture element the frequency of the preceding voltages increases.

11. (Withdrawn - currently amended) ~~A~~-The display device according to claim 7 in which the preceding voltages have different values for different parts of the display.

12. (Withdrawn - currently amended) ~~A~~-The display device according to claim 7 in which the preceding voltages have different polarities at a given time for different parts of the display.

13. (Withdrawn - currently amended) ~~A~~-The display device according to claim 6 in which the preceding voltages comprise a voltage to said picture element bringing the picture element into one of the extreme states.

14. (Withdrawn - currently amended) ~~A~~-The display device according to claim 1 said driving means providing after at least one selection period of a picture element driving voltages of opposite polarity to said picture element.

15. (Withdrawn) A display device having at least one picture element having an optical switch comprising at least one first fluid and a second fluid immiscible with each other within a space on a first transparent support plate, the second fluid being

electro-conductive or polar which display device has driving means for applying voltages to the electrodes associated within a range of electro-optical states of the picture element between and including a first extreme state and a second extreme state said driving means providing prior to selection of a picture element a voltage to said picture element bringing the picture element into one of the extreme states.

16. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A-The display device according to claim 15 comprising the fluids within a space between a first transparent support plate and a second support plate.

17. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A-The display device according to claim 15 said driving means providing the voltages associated with a range of electro-optical states after at least one selection period after bringing the picture element into one of the extreme states.

18. (New) The display device according to claim 1 wherein the variable voltage includes one of the first and second extreme states.

19. (New) The display device according to claim 1 wherein the variable voltage includes both of the first and second extreme states.

20. (New) The display device according to claim 1 wherein the variable voltage transitions between the first and second extreme states.